Pal Says Ruby Knew Oswald Before Killing

By PAUL MESKIL

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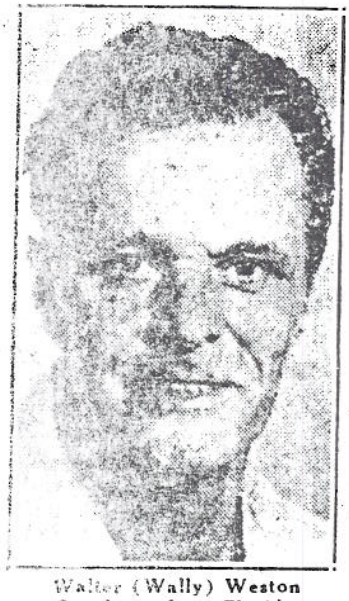
An entertainer who worked for Jack Ruby said yesterday that Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald knew each other before the assassination of President Kennedy.



Walter (Wally) Weston
Speaks up from Florida

Walter (Wally) Weston, a night-club comic and master of ceremonies, said Oswald visited Ruby's Carousel night club in Dallas at least twice before Oswald allegedly killed Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, Less than 48 hours after the assassination, Ruby shot Oswald dead in Dallas police headquarters.

After nearly 13 years of silence, Weston volunteered his information about a Ruby-Oswald link as a result of an exclusive story in The News about Ruby's pre-assassination trips to Cuba. Weston's story, if ture, provides new evidence and lends support to the persistent charges that there was a conspiracy to kill the president.

Soon after the assassination, Secret Service agents questioned Karen Bennett (Little Lynn), a 19-year-old stripper. She said another Carousel entertainer told her Oswald had been in the club and she also "vaguely remembered" seeing him there. Another witness, Wilbryn Waldon Litchfield 2d, said he saw Oswald waiting to see Ruby at the club a month before the assassination. Dallas lawyer Carroll Jarnagin told FBI agents he saw Oswald and Ruby together in the Carousel on the night of Oct. 4, 1963, and overheard them discussing plans for Oswald to assassinate Texas Gov. John Connally, who was wounded in the fusillade that killed Kennedy.

Despite these statements, the Warren Commission concluded that Oswald and Ruby had never met prior to the assassination.

Weston, now 55, was a master of ceremonies at the Carousel and a personal friend of the boss.

"I was working in the club one night approximately three weeks before the assassination," he said. "I was on stage, doing my bit, and this guy was standing near the back wall. He was wearing a brown overcoat and a hat.

"The club was pretty crowded. The guy walked up in the middle of the club, right in front of the stage, and for no reason he said, 'I think you're a Communist.' It had nothing to do with what I was saying, no continuity at all.

Jumped and Hit Him

"I said, 'Sir, I'm an American. Why don't you sit down?' He said, 'Well, I still think you're a Communist,' so I jumped off the stage and hit him. Jack was right behind him when I hit him. He landed in Jack's arms and Jack grabbed him and said, 'You son of bitch, I told you never to come in here'." And he wrestled him to the door and threw him down the stairs of the Carousel.

Later, Weston said, he recognized newspaper photos of Lee Harvey Oswald as the ejected heckler.

Weston was not in Dallas when the President was killed. He said he returned to Dallas on Sunday morning, Nov. 24, and was watching relevision and saw Ruby shoot Oswald. A day or two later, he said, he was questioned by a Dallas detective and an FBI agent. He did not mention the night-club heckler, he said, because he was not positive the man was Oswald and he wanted to discuss the incident with other Carousel employes.

Subsequently, Weston said, he studied news pictures of Oswald and became convinced the alleged assassin was the man he had hit in the Carousel. He said this was verified by another Carousel employe, stripper Kathy Kay, whom he met at the

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club when it closed three weeks after the assassination.

He said Kathy told him Oswald was "the same guy that you punched out that night — and I danced with him."

"She used to do an audience-participation thing where she would dance with a customer as part of her act," Weston continued. "She didn't say she danced with him (Oswald) the night I hit him. She said he had been in there before and she danced with him a few weeks before I hit him. She was very positive he was the one who assassinated the President."

Asked if anyone else was present during his conversation with the stripper, Weston said Billy Willis, drummer in the Carousel band, was there.

"Stay Out of It"

"Billy saw me hit him (Oswald)," Weston said, "When I discussed it with him (during the conversation with Kathy Kay), he said: 'Wally, the best thing to do is stay out if it. Just keep your mouth shut. Don't say anything. That's what I'm going to do. I don't want any part of this.'"

Weston said he never saw Kathy again.

"She was a blonde, an English girl," Weston said. "She was going with a detective and she said they were going to Mexico. She wanted to get out of the country. She disappeared after

the club closed and no one's heard of her since."

Other sources said Kathy and the detectives left Dallas together, got married and moved to California. The cop and Ruby were seen together in the Carousel on the night of the assassination. Because of this meeting the Warren Commission questioned the cop during its probe of the assassination. He was fired from the Dallas force, for reasons never explained, soon after the Kennedy murder.

Visits in Jail

Weston said he visited Ruby several times in the Dallas County jail after the night-club owner's arrest and conviction for murdering Oswald. Weston was asked if Ruby ever discussed his reasons for shooting Oswald.

"No," Weston said. "This is an amazing thing. Everybody was saying, 'What a patriot.'

"I guess he thought he'd get a medal and the club would reopen and he'd be a hero. That was the natural assumption. But he never spoke of Oswald.

"The one time I mentioned it to him, I said: 'Jack, wasn't that the guy I hit in the club?' He just looked at me and didn't say yes or no. He got off on something else about me coming back to the club and running the show again (after Ruby's release)."

Weston said he last saw Ruby a few days before he was removed from jail and transferred to Parkland Hospital, where he died of cancer and a blood clot on Jan. 3, 1967.

"Very Distraught"

"Decker (Dallas County Sheriff J.E. Decker) said Jack had just had a session with his sister Eva (Eva Grant)," Weston said. "He (Decker) said, 'Jack wants to see you while he's settling down,' and I went in and talked to him. He was very distraught, very nervous.

"The first thing he said to me was, 'Wally, you know what's going to happen now? They're going to find out about my trips to Cuba and my trips to New Orleans and the guns and everything.' "

Weston said Ruby didn't elaborate on this statement. He said he didn't know what Ruby was talking about and didn't ask for an explanation because of Ruby's extremely agitated condition.

He said he later mentioned the incident to his wife and she advised him not to tell anyone else.

"At that time, it didn't mean anything to me," he said. "But I can remember it vividly. It's in my brain. I can actually recall what he said, work for word."

A Secret Trip

On July 4, The News disclosed told the Senate Intelligence com- that a former CIA agent had mittee that Ruby made a secret trip to Havana in the summer of 1963 and conferred with Fidel Castro and his top aides about the possibility of killing President Kennedy.

This story was picked up by the news wire services. Weston heard it a few days later while watching a TV news broadcast in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He contacted the TV newscaster and then agreed to be interviewed by The News.

Asked why he waited so long to come forward, he said: "Well, personal safety. So many people connected with it (the Kennedy murder probe) died or disappeared. And besides, being an entertainer, people would say I was looking for publicity. If I'd wanted that, I'd of done it 13 years ago.

"When I heard on TV about Ruby going to Cuba, I realized that what I know may be important. I mean, if it (the Kennedy assassination) really was a conspiracy, I think these things (the Carousel incident and Ruby's last words to Weston) are important. People want to know, I guess.

"I have no reason to lie. I'm willing to take a lie-detector test. I have nothing to gain by saying these things and nothing to hide."